

The following Listing of the Claims will replace all prior versions and all prior listings of the claims in the present application:

Listing of The Claims:

1. (Original) A tissue capturing element comprising:
an internal tissue contacting portion,
an external tissue portion, and
a tissue contacting anchor for maintaining the element in position relative to the tissue.
2. (Original) A tissue capturing element as defined in claim 1 further comprising a first configuration and a second configuration.
3. (Original) A tissue capturing element as defined in claim 2 wherein the interior tissue portion is configured to undergo a shape change that distinguishes the second configuration from the first configuration.
4. (Original) A tissue capturing element as defined in claim 2 wherein the exterior tissue portion is configured to undergo a shape change that distinguishes the second configuration from the first configuration.
5. (Original) A tissue capturing element as defined in claim 2 wherein the tissue anchor is configured to undergo a shape change that distinguishes a second configuration from the first configuration.
6. (Original) A method of capturing tissue in a distorted form comprising:
providing a tissue capturing element having an exterior tissue portion, an interior tissue portion and a tissue anchor portion;

inserting the tissue capturing element so that the interior tissue portion is contained within the subject tissue;

deforming the interior tissue portion of the device to engage the tissue.

7. (Original) A method of capturing tissue in a distorted form comprising:
providing a tissue capturing element having an exterior tissue portion, an interior tissue portion and a tissue anchor portion;
inserting the tissue capturing element so that the interior tissue portion is contained within the subject tissue;
deforming the exterior tissue portion to engage the tissue.

8. (Original) A method of capturing tissue in a distorted form comprising:
providing a tissue capturing element having an exterior tissue portion, an interior tissue portion and a tissue anchor portion;
inserting the tissue capturing element so that the interior tissue portion is contained within the subject tissue;
deforming the tissue anchor portion in order to engage the tissue.

9. (Original) A tissue capturing element comprising:
at least one tissue engaging portion;
at least one distortion portion for becoming distorted to hold tissue in a distorted shape; and
at least one securing mechanism for retaining the element in its tissue distorting form.